To: Bloomgren, David[Bloomgren.David@epa.gov]
Cc: Behringer, Caroline[Behringer.Caroline@epa.gov]
From: Garvin, Shawn
Sent: Wed 1/22/2014 8:34:11 PM
Subject: Re: NPR seeks interview on West Virginia's water situation

Just saw your message. On the Policy call. Can call you when it is done. Thx

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From: Bloomgren, David
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 3:14:00 PM
To: Garvin, Shawn
Cc: Behringer, Caroline
Subject: FW: NPR seeks interview on West Virginia's water situation

Hey there – do you have a minute to chat about this? Tried Terri but haven't heard back. At my desk – 202-564-0639

From: Behringer, Caroline
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 3:07 PM
To: Bloomgren, David
Subject: FW: NPR seeks interview on West Virginia's water situation

Caroline Behringer

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: (202) 564-0098

Cell: (202) 760-1732

From: Elizabeth Shogren [mailto:EShogren@npr.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Behringer, Caroline
Subject: RE: NPR seeks interview on West Virginia's water situation

Hi Caroline,

thanks for this. I still would like to speak with someone at EPA to just explain how it could be that a water supply under such close scrutiny wouldn't pick up that there was an additional contaminant in the water.

I think it's straight forward, that companies can only find contaminants they look for and there was no reason they knew of to look for this chemical, but I'm not sure that's the case. Can someone at EPA explain this to me in a **short recorded interview**?

Thanks, Elizabeth

202-513-3657

From: Behringer, Caroline [mailto:Behringer.Caroline@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Elizabeth Shogren
Subject: RE: NPR seeks interview on West Virginia's water situation

Hey Liz,

Here's a statement from EPA in response to your questions:

Early January 21, during an operations meeting at the facility, Freedom Chemical informed the State of West Virginia, the West Virginia American Water Company, and EPA that another chemical was part of the release that occurred on January 9, 2014. This chemical has been identified as a proprietary mixture of polyglycol ethers (PPH). It was in the same tank and entered the water system at the same time as the MCHM. PPH represented a relatively small percentage (approximately 5%) of the total volume in the tank. EPA shared this information with the Chemical Safety Board and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) provided the following information regarding the newly identified chemical: Toxicologic information on PPH is limited. Based on the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) provided by the manufacturer, the reported toxicity of this material appears to be lower than the toxicity of MCHM (LD50 > 2000 mg/kg for the primary component of PPH vs. 825 mg/kg for MCHM). Given the small percentage of PPH in the tank and information suggesting similar water solubility as MCHM, it is likely that any amount of PPH currently in the water system would be extremely low. However, the water system has not been tested for this material.

EPA will continue to support work with the State, the WVAMC and its federal partners to address this new development and continues to be available for sampling and monitoring assistance.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks,

Caroline

Caroline Behringer

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of the Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office: (202) 564-0098

Cell: (202) 760-1732

From: Elizabeth Shogren [mailto:EShogren@npr.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 12:28 PM
To: Behringer, Caroline

Subject: NPR seeks interview on West Virginia's water situation

Hi Caroline,

I'm working on a story about PPH in West Virginia's water. The Chemical Safety Board is referring calls to EPA.

I'd like to speak with someone from the EPA for recording who can answer the question:

_How could it be that a water supply under such intense scrutiny could have another chemical in the water and no one knew about it?

_What is the chemical?

_Can companies spill chemicals into waterways and keep the makeup of the chemicals secrete if they're "proprietary?"

Thanks very much,

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Shogren